



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SUMMARY MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, December 2, 2015

**MCCORMICK-STILLMAN RAILROAD PARK
7301 E. INDIAN BEND RD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85250**

PRESENT: Virginia Harris, Chair
Todd Davis, Vice Chair
Anne Wurth, Commissioner
Michael Bouscher, Commissioner
Sherry Woodley, Commissioner
Chris Thuman, Commissioner

ABSENT: Ron Chambless, Commissioner

STAFF: Kira Peters, Parks and Recreation Manager
Terry Erickson, Parks and Recreation Manager
Jody Pierce, Parks and Recreation Manager
Denise Clayton, Parks and Recreation Manager
Scott Anderson, Operations Supervisor
Trista Ratley, Recreation Leader III
Tim Nisbet, Recreation Leader III
Melissa Belton, Recreation Leader III
Nick Molinari, Operations Supervisor
Phil Hershkowitz, Recreation Coordinator
Valerie Budnick, Recreation Leader III

GUESTS: Bob Platt, Director of Operations, Scottsdale Aquatic Club

Call to order

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as noted above.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Moment of Silence

Commission members observed a moment of silence.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. Regular Meeting: November 18, 2015**

COMMISSIONER WOODLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 18, 2015 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER THUMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).

2. Scottsdale Aquatic Club Mid-Year update

Bob Platt, Director of Operations, Scottsdale Athletic Club, gave a mid-year report on the club's activities. He noted that Scottsdale Aquatic Club produces either a newsletter or video as a "team pump-up" every other month and the most recent video can be viewed on YouTube. Mr. Platt listed several universities and colleges where athletes have signed, noting that the National Team has 60 members with an overall GPA of 3.77. The club has in the last three years had 31 Academic All Americans who achieved a 3.5 GPA and finaled at a national level meet. Mr. Platt noted that the club has seen a five percent increase in membership since increased dues beginning in April 2015. Funds are being used to increase the three-month reserve fund and to hire the director of operations. He briefly discussed the scholarship program, which will increase to \$10,000 this year. He discussed accomplishments of the 400 athletes participating in the program, including the Junior Nationals in Huston and Austin, Texas and the Junior Championships in Singapore.

Scottsdale Aquatic Club is working with the Scottsdale Aquatics Department to expand and offer a program in southern Scottsdale at Eldorado Pool beginning in April. The process of selecting coaches is currently ongoing. The program will operate as one with the current team. Team members will train in both locations and coaches will rotate. Scholarships will be made available to participants at both locations.

3. Adult Sports in Scottsdale

Tim Nisbet, Recreation Leader III, and Phil Hershkowitz, Recreation Coordinator, presented an overview of the variety of sports and locations offered to citizens to participate in organized recreational sports leagues. Mr. Nisbet discussed men's softball, coed softball, flag football, and basketball. Mr. Hershkowitz briefly overviewed statistics relating to kickball and told anecdotal stories about kickball participation that highlight the importance of offering outlets for adults to recreate and compete.

Mr. Nisbet reviewed statistics related to the Adult Sports program including league coordination. There is an average of 264 teams using 18 fields throughout the city. Start dates for each sport vary based on season. The winter session registration begins the second week of December and the season will run from the first week of January

through March. The fall 2015 season just finished and revenue for the program this season was approximately \$16,000.

Commission Members were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Nisbet explained that Adult Sports is designed to recover 110% of the cost of running the programs. He explained how team play is scheduled and noted that as the season progresses teams are moved into categories that are appropriate for their play level. Teams who hold a record of .750 for two seasons are told they have to move to a higher level of competition. Approximately 58% of participants are non-Scottsdale residents.

Mr. Nisbet said that the protest rule no longer applies. He explained that the protest rule was a program where teams could pay to log a complaint about a call based on a specific game rule and if it was found to be an invalid complaint the city would keep the money, if it was found to be a valid complaint the team got their money back.

4. A Day in the Life of an Afterschool Program

Melissa Belton, Recreation Leader III, shared the basics of the Afterschool programming. She discussed the overall programming; breakdown of sites which includes five elementary programs and one middle school program; daily schedules; and daily planning. A monthly newsletter is generated for parents, which highlights activities, key dates, student of the month, and special events. A variety of monthly meetings are scheduled to discuss new activities, brainstorm, and offer staff an opportunity to communicate with supervisors. Staff training focuses on skill building and development.

Collaboration with SUSD and the 21st Century program is a key element of the afterschool program. Classes offered through 21st Century include homework help, tutoring, chess, robotics, and gardening. SUSD teams with the afterschool program by offering resources such as facilities, utilities, janitors, support staff, and snacks. Playworks is a non-profit organization that offers activities in physical education and learning by offering safe, inclusive play to low income Title I students.

Ms. Belton reviewed the successes and challenges that are part of the afterschool program.

Commission Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Discussion ensued regarding Playworks. Chair Harris suggested that Playworks be invited to give a presentation at a future Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and asked that Commission members be invited to participate in the next training session.

Scott Anderson, Operations Supervisor, explained that staff is rotated between afterschool sites based on attendance as a way to stay within the budget. He noted that many of the students who are on the wait list have found other programs to participate in by the time the wait list is opened.

Commissioner Thuman explained that the 21st Century program is a federal grant program that offers a five-year recurring grant for low- socioeconomic schools. Scottsdale has ten qualifying schools and will receive approximately \$100,000 per school per year for three years and \$75,000 per year for the remaining two years. The school district approached the city to combine programs in an effort to balance activities and funding.

5. Top 5 challenges in Recreation

Terry Erickson, Parks and Recreation Manager, talked about challenges in generating revenue through the aquatics facilities and the importance of educating users about the high cost of offering aquatics services. She indicated that sponsored teams generate approximately \$112,000 per year, which offsets the costs, and user fees have recently been increased. Ms. Erickson stressed the importance of marketing aquatics programs, with particular focus on swimming lessons and drowning prevention programs. Staff has requested that cost recovery be moved to 85% for learn to swim lessons because drowning prevention is vitally important to the community.

Kira Peters, Parks and Recreation Manager, discussed the importance of marketing programs and amenities such as those offered at the aquatics centers, senior centers, and the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.

Jody Pierce, Parks and Recreation Manager, discussed challenges related to facilities maintenance. Because of the reduction in budget, maintenance staff has been spread out over more facilities, which has resulted in projects being prioritized, with more focus on the bigger picture. Staff is saving approximately \$10,000 per year by applying a combination of fertilizer and pre-emergent weed product.

Denise Clayton, Parks and Recreation Manager, discussed the challenge with lack of field space and team scheduling challenges. In addition to the usual partner field allocation challenges, there has been an increase in interest from charter schools and private schools for field use. She briefly reviewed statistics, noting over 70,000 hours of field reservation time. This includes 48,000 hours for youth sports field allocation, 12,000 hours for league sports, and 9,000 hours for private use.

Kira Peters, Parks and Recreation Manager, discussed challenges related to coordinating volunteers including corporate organizations and youth. She explained that thoughtful planning is being given to planning projects to have them available when larger adult groups show interest in volunteering. She noted that Youth Corps is being extended year round and is in the process of being structured, keeping in mind the limited afterschool availability and need for supervision of youth.

Discussion ensued regarding marketing facility amenities to citizens, the challenge of managing volunteer opportunities, and ball field availability.

6. Commissioner Report

Vice Chair Davis read an article related to the Town of Gilbert's efforts to form a foundation dedicated to the social, cultural and leisure needs of their residents. He offered to contact the Town of Gilbert to obtain information on how to start a foundation while staying within regulations. Commissioner Woodley noted her experiences with the City of Phoenix and the difficulty of managing a foundation.

Chair Harris noted that she was impressed with how prepared staff was at the rates and fees meeting that she attended. Ms. Erickson said that the rates and fees proposal that will be presented to City Council is expected to be completed by December 27, 2015.

7. Director's Report of Current Events

Terry Erickson, Parks and Recreation Manager, presented photographs from the Zombie Walk at Mountain View Park and the afterschool Turkey Bowl Event. She noted that ANLC won first place in both the middle school and elementary Turkey Bowl tournaments and Yavapai received second place.

Youth Development sponsored a group of 40 Arcadia Neighborhood Learning Center after school participants for a hike in the Preserve where the kids learned about Preserve wildlife.

Youth Sports basketball season completed in November with an end-of-season tournament with 15 teams of third, fourth and fifth grade students competing.

Aquatics price increases were implemented beginning November 1st. New rates are: Adult residents \$3, adult non-resident \$5, resident child \$2, and child non-resident \$3. Cactus changed availability hours for the gym to match aquatic hours. New hours are Monday through Friday from 6:00 am through 1:00 pm and 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eldorado pool's weekday facility hours changed November 9th through April. Hours for lap swim and gym are 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The tennis court resurfacing is completed. However, this is a temporary fix and cracks will eventually reappear.

Handlebar Helpers participated in the Police Community Bike Ride in October by assisting with bike maintenance during the event. Handlebar Helpers assisted during the 5th Annual Scottsdale Rotary Club event, during which the Rotary Club assembled 30 bicycles that will be given along with helmets to those in need.

The Pickleball Court ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for December 4th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cholla Park. The event will include comments from Mayor Lane, snacks, and demonstrations. Discussion about the addition of more pickleball courts will be agendaized for a future meeting.

Family Fun Night will be held at Vista del Camino on Saturday, December 5th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event is free and the movie Elf will be shown beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners are invited to attend the Parks and Recreation, Preserve, and Human Services staff safety meeting and holiday potluck on December 9th at Granite Reef Senior Center from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Holiday Lights at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park will begin with a tree lighting on December 11th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will be open through January 2nd, 2016.

Ms. Erickson asked for a volunteer to take Commissioner Chambless' place at the vision statement planning session scheduled for December 3rd at SkySong. Vice Chair Davis volunteered to attend.

Chair Harris requested that the pickleball guidelines be supplied to Commission members.

Vice Chair Davis stressed the importance of letting citizens know about activities of the Commission and suggested that the Chair or a Commission representative attend events, particularly those where the mayor can acknowledge the Commission's accomplishments.

8. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the regular meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz